



Nematode Problems in the Urban Landscape

www.ncagr.com/agronomi/uyrnem.htm

The results of your nematode assay indicate the presence of a potentially hazardous nematode problem. Unfortunately, there are no nematicides labeled for use by homeowners on turf grasses or ornamentals.

Generally, nematode damage to ornamentals can be reduced by providing plants with optimum growing conditions. These include amending the soil with sufficient organic matter before planting, providing adequate soil moisture, maintaining proper soil pH and fertility levels, and pruning at the proper time. For turf grasses, it is also important to keep the grass cut to the correct height; cutting the grass too short can cause additional stress on the plants.

If plants succumb to nematode damage, it is important to replace them with plants that are resistant or tolerant to nematode damage. TABLE 1 lists the relative susceptibility of several woody landscape plants to four common nematode species.

For Additional Assistance

- Call your NCDA&CS regional agronomist or the Agronomic Division office in Raleigh (919-733-2655).
- Visit the NCDA&CS Agronomic Division Web site at www.ncagr.com/agronomi/.
- Visit your county Cooperative Extension office.
- Refer to the following online publications.
 - ***Foliar nematodes in nursery crops*** (University of Florida IFAS Extension, 2006)
— ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/community/landscape/commercial/foliar.shtml
 - ***Nematode management for nursery crops*** (University of Florida IFAS Extension, 2002)
— edis.ifas.ufl.edu/NG011
 - ***Nematode management in bedding plants in the landscape***
(N.C. State University Plant Pathology Extension, 2000)
— www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/notes/Ornamental/nematodes/odin31_nematodes.htm
 - ***Nematodes and their control in woody ornamentals in the landscape***
(N.C. State University Plant Pathology Extension, 2000)
— www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/notes/oldnotes/no63.htm

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TABLE 1. Response of selected woody ornamentals to nematodes ¹

Plant	Reaction to Nematode *			
	Root-Knot	Stunt	Lesion	Ring
<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	HS	S	O	S
<i>Buxus microphylla</i> (Japanese boxwood)	S	T	S	T
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> (American boxwood)	T	T	HS	T
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> (English boxwood)	R	T	HS	O
<i>Camellia japonica</i>	T	T	O	O
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	T	T	O	R
<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i>	S	T	T	T
<i>Gardenia radicans</i>	HS	T	T	T
<i>Ilex cornuta</i> (Chinese holly)				
cv. Burfordi	T	T	O	O
cv. Rotunda	S	S	O	S
<i>Ilex crenata</i> (Japanese holly)				
cv. Compacta	HS	T	T	S
cv. Convexa	HS	T	O	S
cv. Helleri	HS	S	O	S
cv. Rotundifolia	HS	S	O	S
<i>Ilex vomitoria nana</i> (yaupon holly)	T	T	O	T
<i>Juniper</i> spp.				
cv. Blue Rug	T	T	HS	T
cv. Shore Juniper	T	T	O	T
cv. Spiny Creek	T	T	S	T
<i>Ligustrum</i> sp. (privet)	T	T	O	T
<i>Nandina domestica</i> (heavenly bamboo)	T	T	T	T
<i>Photinia fraseri</i> (red tip)	T	T	T	T
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp. (azalea)	T	S	O	T
<i>Rosa</i> spp. (rose)	S	S	S	T

* HS = highly susceptible: plant is subject to severe stunting, branch die-back and death;
O = plants have not been tested;
R = resistant: plants may grow well and actually suppress any existing nematode populations;
S = susceptible: plant may exhibit some stunting;
T = tolerant: plant will grow satisfactorily.

¹ Information in this table comes from Benson DM. 2000. Nematodes and their control in woody ornamentals in the landscape. Raleigh (NC): North Carolina State University Plant Pathology Extension. [Disease Information Note 63]. Available online at www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/notes/oldnotes/no63.htm.